

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. through 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A bicycle carrier adapted to be secured to an article carrier structure on a motor vehicle, to support a bicycle in a vertical orientation adjacent said motor vehicle, said bicycle carrier comprising:

an elongated support rail adapted to be fixedly secured to said article carrier structure such that said support rail extends in a generally vertical orientation adjacent said motor vehicle;

a foldable wheel support adapted to be extended into an operative position extending outwardly of said support rail for engaging a wheel of said bicycle and substantially supporting an entire weight of said bicycle in a substantially vertical orientation; and

a frame engaging assembly operably associated with said support rail for engaging a frame portion of said bicycle and holding said bicycle against said support rail; said frame engaging assembly including:

~~The bicycle carrier of claim 1, wherein said frame engaging assembly includes;~~

a frame supporting member; and

a mounting plate fixedly secured to said elongated support rail, said frame supporting member being pivotally secured to said mounting plate to allow a degree of adjustability to accommodate bicycle frames of various sizes.

5. through 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A bicycle carrier adapted to be secured to an article carrier structure on a motor vehicle, to support a bicycle in a vertical orientation adjacent a lift gate of said motor vehicle, said bicycle carrier comprising:

an elongated support rail adapted to be fixedly secured to said article carrier structure such that said support rail extends in a generally vertical orientation and spaced apart from said liftgate of said motor vehicle;

a foldable wheel support adapted to be extended into an operative position extending outwardly of said support rail for engaging one wheel of said bicycle and substantially supporting an entire weight of said bicycle in a substantially vertical orientation when said bicycle is lifted and placed with said one wheel on said foldable wheel support; and

a secondary support assembly for engaging said bicycle at a position other than said one wheel to further assist in securing said bicycle in said vertical orientation, said secondary support assembly comprising:

~~The bicycle carrier of claim 6, wherein said secondary support assembly comprises:~~

a tube;

a clamp carried by said tube, said clamp being adapted to engage a frame portion of said bicycle; and

a support member for securing said tube to said elongated support rail.

8. (Original) The bicycle carrier of claim 7, wherein said tube is pivotally secured to said support member.

9. through 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The bicycle carrier of claim 8, wherein said tube is foldable to a position generally parallel to said elongated support rail when not in use.

12. through 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A bicycle carrier adapted to be secured to an article carrier structure on a motor vehicle, to support a bicycle in a vertical orientation adjacent a lift gate of said motor vehicle, said bicycle carrier comprising:

an elongated support rail adapted to be fixedly secured to said article carrier structure such that said support rail extends in a generally vertical orientation and spaced over but apart from said liftgate of said motor vehicle;

a foldable wheel support adapted to be extended between a stored position, wherein said foldable wheel support is disposed generally parallel to said elongated

support rail, and an operative position wherein said foldable wheel is extended into a position outwardly of said support rail;

said foldable wheel support engaging one wheel of said bicycle and substantially supporting an entire weight of said bicycle when said bicycle is lifted and placed with said one wheel on said foldable wheel support in a generally vertical orientation; and

a secondary support assembly secured to said elongated support member for engaging said bicycle at a position other than said one wheel to further assist in securing said bicycle in said vertical orientation, said secondary support assembly comprising:

~~The bicycle carrier of claim 12, wherein said secondary support assembly includes:~~

a frame supporting member operably secured to said elongated support rail and moveable pivotally relative to said elongated support rail; and

a clamping assembly adjustably positionable along said frame supporting member for engaging a portion of a frame of said bicycle.

16. through 20. (Cancelled)